

Sac and Fox Nation

920883 S. Hwy. 99 ♦♦ Building A ♦ Stroud, OK 74079



Principal Chief GEORGETHURMAN
Second Chief ORVENA (TWIGGY) GREGORY
Secretary MARY F. MCCORMICK
Treasurer JAREDA. KING
Committee Member STELLA NULLAKE

Statement of the Sac and Fox Nation Concerning the Oklahoma City Public Schools Abolition of the Redskins Mascot and Land Run Reenactments

On December 8, 2014 a truly moving thing happened in Oklahoma City: The Oklahoma City Public Schools Board voted in an 8-0 vote to abolish the use of the “Redskins” Mascot from Capitol Hill High School after 88 years of use. The respect of the Native American Heritage and Culture was further confirmed when the Oklahoma City Schools made the astute decision to stop land run re-enactments. These reenactments have been both harmful and disrespectful to the Native American Culture for years and this unprecedented announcement is a step in the right direction. The Sac and Fox Nation was thrilled by these decisions. It is a blessing to our community that people around the State and the Nation are finally demonstrating a respect for our culture and heritage. With these decisions coming just weeks after Congress declared November Native American Heritage Month the Sac and Fox Nation is exhilarated to see such a progression towards acceptance.

Sac and Fox Nation Chief George Thurman confirmed the feeling of the Sac and Fox Nation by stating “The Culture and Heritage of all Native Americans is tantamount to our identity. The harmful images and teachings inherent in both the Redskins name and the Land run reenactment continuously undermined the identity of our youngest members from their first exposure. But more than that, it undermined the Native American culture and history in the eyes of their peers. These one sided displays steal our esteem every time they are presented. There is no greater display of respect, acceptance and understanding than what we have begun to view from the State and Federal Officials.”

The abolition of the Redskins nickname and the harmful land run re-enactments is something we fully support. Our Nation is grateful to the Oklahoma City Public Schools for recognizing the harm that can be done by simple words or one sided views of history. The foresight and vision of Superintendents Neu has presented the Native American Students, and all students for that matter, with a safer learning environment - an environment where all perspectives of history can be learned and appreciated.